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drupe. The leaves are ovate or oblong-ovate, broad and rounded at the base, sometimes almost subcordate, finely serrate, and three-ribbed.

Extracts from the essay on Tea Culture, by the author of the fifth paragraph above, have been introduced into the circular of the American Tea Company; the first of which is worded in the following manner:

"The Tea-plant is thus described by botanists:

"*Thea viridis*, Linn., *Camellia theifera*, Griff., Chinese *Chah*, Assamese *Phalop*.

"The ordinary height of the cultivated plant is from three to six feet."

This concise and very curious botanical description was, it appears, just enough for the present purpose. Had the more detailed account of the plant, given three years ago in the essay on Tea-culture, been reproduced in full, more information would perhaps have been given than was intended.

The second extract runs thus: "Botanically considered, the Tea-plant is a single species; the Green and the Black, with all the diversities of each, being mere varieties produced by a difference in culture, qualities of the soil, age of crops, &c." Evidently this extract is the corollary of one of the paragraphs of the circular, in which the same author insinuates that, "although the character of the American Tea-plant differs somewhat from the Chinese variety, it is not greater than might be expected from the difference of climate and soil of the two countries."

I will inform the gentleman that difference of climate and soil, and even difference of hemisphere, (although occasionally producing slight changes,) will never transform a plant of the *Camellia* tribe into one of the Buckthorn family. Referring to the leaf alone, "which," he says, "is the important part, and almost identical with some of the varieties from which the best Assam tea is made," I will add that, far from being almost identical, they are very different; the leaf of our *Ceanothus* being deciduous, of a thin texture, more or less pubescent, strongly three-nerved, and rounded at the base; whilst in all the varieties of *Thea viridis* the leaf is thick, coriaceous, persistent, quite glabrous, with a single feather-veined rib, and attenuated at the base. I must confess that the remark of an almost identity of the leaves of our plant with those of the Chinese Tea-plant, had induced me for a moment to suspect that the species *Ceanothus Asiaticus*, a plant indigenous to south-eastern Asia, and very similar to our *Ceanothus*, was also used in Assam as an auxiliary, if not a substitute, to *Thea viridis*.

I have now done with the subject. My purpose was merely to discuss the botanical value of the assertion of the originators of the American Tea Company, viz.: that the tea which they intend to offer to the public, was derived from the "true Chinese Tea-plant, growing indigenously, luxuriantly, and abundantly in our mountains," invisible, so far, to our numerous and active botanists. I trust that I have convinced you of the fallacy of this assertion.

I leave it now to the chemist to test the identity of chemical composition of this American tea with the Chinese *Chah*, and ascertain whether the former contains tannin, gluten, and thein, three of the principles which characterize *Thea viridis*.

Oct. 20th.

Mr. VAUX, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Twenty members present.

The following were presented for publication:

"Description of a new species of *Pleurocera*," "Description of two new Mexican Land Shells," and "Description of a new *Teredo*." By George W. Tryon, Jr.

1863.]